

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 04372 01 OF 02 211846Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

/058 W

----- 043639

R 201736Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9491

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 04372

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, UK

SUBJECT: LEFT WING ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES IN
UK

SUMMARY. FOLLOWING "REVELATIONS" IN LEFT-WING PRESS ARTICLES ABOUT THE PRESENCE IN THE UK OF CIA AGENTS, SOME MP'S ON THE FAR LEFT OF THE LABOR PARTY HAVE PRESSED THE GOVERNMENT TO INQUIRE INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF 10 MEMBERS OF EMBASSY STAFF WHO IT IS ALLEGED ARE CIA OFFICIALS. THIS GROUP OF MP'S HAS ALSO ASKED HMG TO DECLARE THE 10 PERSONA NON GRATA, UNLESS IT CAN BE DISPROVED THAT THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH CIA. THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FIRM LINE TO DATE IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT AND WE EXPECT IT WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO IN MANNER WHICH WILL CAUSE NO EMBARRASSMENT TO USG. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING "REVELATIONS" ON MARCH 7 IN WORKERS' PRESS (TROTSKYITE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER) AND TIME OUT (A TRENDY WEEKLY OF "WHAT'S ON IN LONDON") SOME EXTREME LEFT-WING LABOR MP'S BEGAN TO RING ALARM BELLS ABOUT ALLEGED INADMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES IN THE UK BY CIA AND CERTAIN EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO WERE TAGGED AS CIA OFFICIALS. STANLEY NEWENS, LEADER OF THIS GROUP OF ANGRY LEFT-WINGERS, ASKED THE FOREIGN SECRETARY IN A WRITTEN QUESTION "IF IT IS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 04372 01 OF 02 211846Z

HIS POLICY TO REGARD AS ADMISSIBLE AND COMPATIBLE WITH

DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES ALL INTELLIGENCE GATHERING OPERATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ACTIVE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHICH DO NOT INVOLVE ANY INFRINGEMENT OF THE LAW." MINISTER OF STATE HATTERSLEY RESPONDED ON MARCH 11, "WE WOULD NATURALLY CONSIDER TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSION IF THERE WERE EVIDENCE OF INADMISSIBLE ACTIVITIES INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE FUNCTIONS OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION."

2. ON MARCH 18, NEWENS AND HIS COHORTS RETURNED TO THE CHARGE PRAYING THE PRIME MINISTER TO SET UP AN INQUIRY INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA AT THE US EMBASSY. THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE HOUSE IN AN ORAL EXCHANGE THAT IF THERE WERE REAL EVIDENCE OF ANY IMPROPER ACTIVITIES AS ALLEGED HE WOULD CERTAINLY ORDER AN INQUIRY. THE FOLLOWING DAY, MARCH 19, NEWENS AND 33 OTHER MP'S ON THE FAR LEFT OF THE PARTY PUT DOWN AN "EARLY DAY MOTION" THE TEXT OF WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THAT THIS HOUSE, BEING AWARE OF THE LONG RECORD OF INTELLIGENCE-GATHERING ACTIVITIES AND CLANDESTINE OPERATIONS ORGANISED BY THE UNITED STATES CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, WHICH HAVE INVOLVED INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF MANY COUNTRIES AND THE SUBVERSION AND OVERTHROW OF GOVERNMENTS IN GUATEMALA, IRAN, GUYANA (FORMERLY BRITISH GUIANA), CHILE AND OTHER COUNTRIES, CALLS UPON HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THAT AMPLE EVIDENCE EXISTS TO INDICATE THAT MESSRS. CORD MEYER, JOHN W. COFFEY, SIDNEY BEARMAN, A. SPENCER BRAHAM,

D
RICHARDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 04372 02 OF 02 211849Z

43
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

/058 W
----- 043684

R 201736Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9492

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 04372

WILLIAM M. MCGHEE, BENJAMIN J. PRICE, JOHN A. REED JUNIOR, JOSEPH P. SHERMAN, JOSEPH C. THEN, AND GEORGE FORD II, ALL OF WHOM HAVE BEEN ACCORDED DIPLOMATIC CREDENTIALS, ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORK OF THE CIA, AND UNLESS THIS CAN BE DISPROVED FORTHWITH, EACH MUST BE REGARDED AS PERSONA NON GRATA AND WITHDRAWN FROM GREAT BRITAIN IMMEDIATELY."

3. AN EARLY DAY MOTION IS NOT USUALLY DEBWTED IN THE HOUSE BUT THE GOVERNMENT HAS PREPARED CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE FOR THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE IN THE EVENT THE MOTION IS PRESSED. THE GENERAL LINE THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO TAKE IS THAT ITS VIEWS ARE WELL KNOWN; THE PRIME MINISTER ON MARCH 18 HAD SAID THAT IF EVIDENCE OF IMPROPER ACTIVITIES WERE PUT FORWARD, HE WOULD ORDER AN INQUIRY; AND THAT UNLESS AND UNTIL EVIDENCE OF IMPROPER ACTIVITIES WAS BROUGHT FORWARD THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A DEBATE ON THE MATTER.

4. COMMENT: WE CANNOT DOCUMENT COLLUSION BETWEEN NEWENS AND COMPANY ON THE ONE HAND AND THE RADICAL LEFT WING GROUPS LIKE THE TROTSKYITES ON THE OTHER BUT THERE ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO SUSPECT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GUARDIAN HAD PLANS TO MAKE ITS OWN "REVELATIONS ABOUT CIA" BUT APPARENTLY THOUGHT BETTER OF THE IDEA GIVEN THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 04372 02 OF 02 211849Z

PROVENANCE OF THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES IN THE UK AND THE NAMES OF THE ALLEGED CIA PERSONNEL. NEWENS AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE ON THE EXTREME LEFTWING OF THE LABOR PARTY. MANY ARE UNDISGUIDEDLY ANTI-AMERICAN. THEY SEEM TO THINK THAT THEY HAVE GOTTEN ON TO AN ISSUE WHICH WILL BOTH EMBARRASS THE WILSON GOVERNMENT AND GIVE VENT TO THEIR OWN PREJUDICES ABOUT THE CIA. QUITE POSSIBLY, AND THIS IS CERTAINLY SUGGESTED BY REPORTING OF THE COMMUNIST MORNING STAR, THESE PARTICULAR MP'S ARE USING CURRENT SPECULATION ABOUT THE CIA IN THE UK TO COUNTER THE RISING INDIGNATION IN THE COUNTRY ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SHELEPIN.

5. THE GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING THIS ONE COOL. MINISTERS ARE NOT, WE UNDERSTAND, DISTURBED, AND AS THE FOREGOING CITATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT LINE INDICATE, ARE RISING

TO THE BAIT OF THE LEFTWING. THERE IS NO QUESTION IN
OUR MINDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE A
FIRM LINE AND SCRUPULOUSLY AVOID TAKING ANY POSITIONS
WHICH MIGHT CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE EMBASSY OR TO
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

RICHARDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LABOR UNIONS, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON04372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750099-1077
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750332/aaaabdba.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEFT WING ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES IN UK
TAGS: PINR, UK, CIA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006